

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 9, 2013

www.op97.org

Important Dates

Next Two Weeks	MAP Testing
September 13	Institute Day -- No School
September 19	Curriculum Night
September 20	The Windy Tall Ship Sailing Field Trip
September 25-27	Dental Clinic

Dear Families,

It was great seeing so many families at the carnival this weekend! We hope you enjoyed the food, games, and festivities.

Please be aware that we have several students with allergies in fifth grade -- some of them serious. Do not send in snacks to be eaten in class that contain peanuts. If your child does bring in a snack with peanuts, we will ask him or her to save it for lunchtime. Thank you for your understanding.

From September 25 to 27, Holmes will host a Dental Clinic coordinated by the Infant Welfare League. All students can participate in the clinic. It is not income based. This exam covers the requirement for kindergarten and 6th grade. The clinic will also be here on Monday, September 9th in the morning to give talks on nutrition and dental hygiene. Specific schedule to come.

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com)

Music - Students will be reviewing rhythms learned in previous years through our drumming unit starting this week.

Chorus - Our first rehearsal is Wednesday September 4th in the music room. Returning members will come at 8:15 and new members will come down at 8:30. I will be giving a note to bring home with information and a permission slip.

Spanish - Welcome back to another school year! I look forward to working with the fifth grade students again this year. They will be having class twice a week for thirty minutes. The students will be learning Spanish primarily through short stories. We will be starting off the year with some review and work to turn their "Spanish channels" back on. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - This week we will be talking about good fit books using the IPICK method (I choose a book based on Purpose, Interest, Comrehension, and Knowledge of the words). I will be sending home permission forms for Playaway audio books. Please keep your eyes peeled for these forms! They are to be filled out each year after discussing the responsibility with your student. While checking out a Playaway is **completely optional**, if your student would like to check one out, he or she must have a

permission form on file each year. To learn more about what we are doing in the library, please visit the library website (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Happy reading!

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week we will start our first, full unit! We will focus on some key skills that align with the Common Core. Students will learn strategies to help them better comprehend what they are reading such as comparing and contrasting elements of a story. We will model each strategy and, gradually, students will be able to do it independently. One of the most important skills we will focus on this year will be to find evidence in a story. Students will learn how to use quotes from what they are reading as evidence to prove their point.

Writing

We are continuing to work on the trait of Organization, and students will be using the 8-sentence accordion paragraph organizer to help with this trait. Students will be working on writing a personal narrative which relates to the theme of "A Day's Work," by Eve Bunting. Writing assignment due dates will vary by homeroom teacher. Be sure to check your homeroom teacher web page and your child's planner.

Math

Last week, we focused on writing numeric expressions and applying the rules for order of operations. On Friday, students took a quiz covering those topics. This year, students will take most of their math assessments (quizzes and tests) online, using a site called Junoed. We will use quizzes as a formative assessment. In other words, we will use the quizzes as a means of identifying areas where individual students, or the whole class, may need more instruction on a topic. For quizzes, students will get immediate feedback. They will be able to see their score, as well as their response and the correct response. However, they will not be bringing home graded paper copies.

Our main topic this week will be multiplication of whole numbers. We will begin by using mental multiplication strategies including the distributive property. Students will also be working on making visual representations of multiplication. For the next several weeks, we will be using lessons developed by the state of New York. We do not have a textbook, but each student has a workbook which contains materials for both classwork and homework. Students should refer to the pages completed in class when doing daily homework. This week's homework can be found on the Holmes 5th Grade Math wikispaces page (<http://holmes5thgrademath.wikispaces.com/home>).

Every 5th grade student needs a calculator. We recommend the TI-15 Explorer calculator as it has fraction functions that we will use later in the year. TI-15 calculators are available from the school at a cost of \$16, payable in cash, or check made out to District 97. You may also order calculators online from the District 97 Web Store.

Science

This week, students will use a device called a gnomon to measure shadows on the blacktop in five-minute increments. This investigation will align with the new Next Generation Science Standards. Students will be able to represent data in graphical displays to reveal patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky. This week we also will begin to investigate topics for our research papers and our science fair.

Social Studies

This week, we will start discussing why geography matters and learn about some of the impacts the study of our Earth has had. We will use globes to compare and contrast locations and places from a

geographical perspective. Later in the week, we will use longitude and latitude lines to help us find specific locations on a map.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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